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## **Firefighter's death linked to stress in battling arsons**

Associated Press

12:04 PM CDT, May 26, 2008

EATON, Ind.

A firefighter's heart-attack death might have been caused by the stress of responding to more than a dozen blazes set in a central Indiana town, a fire official said.

Jay Maddy, 41, was a member of the Eaton Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years before he died Saturday, the day after he fell ill, said Tim Baty, the chief of the neighboring Hamilton Township Fire Department.

Maddy was one of the first firefighters to respond to 21 fires reported in the town between 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. Thursday that damaged a carport and motor home, a minivan, a sport-utility vehicle, a mo-ped and several trash cans.

Maddy joined a crew of police officers and firefighters that patrolled the town Thursday night and early Friday to prevent more arsons. Maddy was up for 24 hours without rest, but showed no signs of trouble other than fatigue before his heart attack, Baty said.

The state fire marshal's office has labeled Maddy's fatal heart attack as a "line of duty" death, believing the stress might have contributed to his heart attack, Baty said.

"They've lost a brother in firefighting and it's hard," Baty said of Maddy's co-workers.

Police officers on Friday arrested two males, ages 17 and 18, in connection with the arsons in Eaton, a town of about 1,500 people 10 miles north of Muncie.

Maddy's family will be eligible to receive full line-of-duty death benefits, including financial aid for the education of his two children, Baty said.

Information from: The Star Press, <http://www.thestarpress.com>

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## Fireman's death unites fire departments

Published Monday, May 26, 2008  
by [Tiffany Coleman](#)

The death of Jay Maddy, Veteran Eaton Firefighter, united fire departments across Delaware County. Surrounding stations joined together in efforts to cover the Eaton area during the annual Eaton Fire Department Hog Roast.

"Anything we can do to help out the brother firefighters as much as we can", says Salem Township Fire Chief Todd Lewis.

Fire departments from Salem, Center and Hamilton townships are just a few departments that showed up at the roast to assist.

Maddy suffered a heart attack and died shortly after finishing his assignment to fire watch. Maddy was the first one on the scene of Thursday night's twenty-one arson fires in Eaton.

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May 26, 2008

## Officials: Firefighter's fatal heart attack connected to battling arsons

**By NICK WERNER**

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EATON -- Officials believe a series of arsons in Eaton on Thursday morning contributed to the death of one of the town's firefighters.

Jay Maddy, 41, suffered a heart attack Friday night and died Saturday morning, according to Hamilton Township Fire Chief Tim Baty, who is acting as a spokesman for the Eaton Volunteer Fire Department.

The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office has labeled Maddy's fatal heart attack as a "line of duty" death, according to Baty.

Maddy had been a member of the Eaton Volunteer Fire Department for 20 years, Baty said.

"They've lost a brother in firefighting and it's hard," Baty said of the other department members.

Between 3:30 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. Thursday morning, two teenagers set 21 fires that involved a carport and motor home, a mini-van, a sport-utility vehicle, a mo-ped and several trash cans, according to police.

Maddy was one of the first firefighters on the scene Thursday morning, Baty said. He was also part of a crew of police and firefighters that patrolled the town Thursday night and early Friday morning to prevent further arsons and protect the town.

Maddy was up for 24 hours without rest and the fire marshal's office believes the stress might have contributed to his heart attack, Baty said.

Aside from fatigue, Maddy showed no signs of poor health Thursday and Friday, Baty said.

Around 5 a.m. Friday, Eaton Police arrested 18-year-old Jessie Vaughn, 220 E. Harris St., and a 17-year-old boy in connection with the arsons.

Vaughn was being held at the Delaware County Jail without bond Sunday on preliminary charges of arson, a Class B felony, attempted arson, a Class D felony, and four counts of criminal mischief, all misdemeanors.

Maddy is the eighth firefighter from Muncie or Delaware County to have died in the line of duty, and he is the third among that group to have died from a work-related heart attack.

The time and date of Maddy's funeral is pending, Baty said.

Maddy's family will be eligible to receive full line-of-duty death benefits, including financial aid for the education of his two children, Baty said.

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## Indiana Firefighter Dies After Battling Arsons

Firehouse.Com News

Hours after battling a series of arson fires, Eaton, Ind. Firefighter Jay C. Maddy died on May 23, according to a statement by the volunteer fire company.

He was rushed to Ball Memorial Hospital around 11 p.m. on Friday, approximately 16 hours after the fires occurred. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

A juvenile and an 18-year-old male have since been arrested in connection with the 17 fires set on May 22.

Maddy leaves behind a wife and two children.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

*Firehouse.com will provide more information on this story as it becomes available.*

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May 26, 2008

## His goal: 'Back to pre-flood wholeness'

By *ERIC WEDDLE*

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Throughout his career Alan Welch has helped people.

After 28 years as an academic adviser and administrator at Purdue University, he sought a new challenge last fall.

"Then serendipitously, or providentially, or however you want to say it, the floods happened," he said.

Today, Welch is the director of Disaster Assistance for Northwest Indiana, a long-term recovery agency formed in response to the January and February floods. Leading a group known simply as DANI, he is holding the umbrella for more than 30 local faith- and community-based organizations that are preparing to assist the unmet needs of 80 to 100 individuals and families.

"We are recovery, we are getting people back to where they were," he said. "You take care of basic needs but you don't always see there is an issue remaining. Our goal is to find that hidden problem."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated that \$800,000 to \$1.2 million will be needed to cover those needs during an 18-month process.

**Question:** Why will it take 18 months to help about 100 people?

**Answer:** Folks familiar with what we are doing said it would take two years. I am hoping it will take a year, myself. Because these people are out of their homes, and they need to get back into their homes to get back to a normal way of life.

**Q:** Why should the community feel responsible to help when many flood victims received money from the FEMA?

**A:** FEMA is sort of a stopgap. I think there is a perception that FEMA is going to give everybody everything they need. The reality is, they are limited to a maximum of \$28,800 for any one family. If your house is destroyed, that is more than \$28,800.

These are our friends and neighbors. These are the people we go to work and church with -- we are involved in softball games with. I think we have somewhat of a responsibility to our fellow man to make sure they are taken care of. DANI's role is not to better society. DANI's role is to bring society back to where it was before the flood.

**Q:** You are working with about 30 groups. Does DANI still need the community pitching in to meet its

goal?

**A:** Definitely. There is no way even those 30 groups can handle the need that is out there. Many people we are helping are self-reliant and have done a lot on their own. The elderly, those with some sort of disability or not back in their homes yet need help. Those will be our highest priorities. I hope the community sees that these folks will have a tougher time doing this on their own.

**Q:** Have the recent disasters in China and Myanmar made you think differently about what you are doing or provided ideas?

**A:** My heart, whatever I can put out, goes out to those folks. But I think it would be a tragedy, more so, if we put all of our focus on another part of the world and ignore the neighbors in our own backyard. And that is what I think DANI's message needs to be. We aren't trying to put these people in the Taj Mahal. We are trying to bring people back to pre-flood wholeness.

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# Memorial Day storms likely as deadly weather moves east

Story Created: May 26, 2008 at 1:22 AM EDT

Story Updated: May 26, 2008 at 10:34 AM EDT

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Severe thunderstorms packing large hail and tornadoes rumbled across the nation's midsection on Sunday, killing at least eight people and damaging dozens of homes, authorities said.

Iowa Homeland Security administrator Dave Miller said seven of the dead were killed by a tornado in northeast Iowa — five from Parkersburg, 80 miles northeast of Des Moines, and two from nearby New Hartford. At least 50 injuries were reported.

"Occasionally we have a death but we have warning system. Seven deaths. It's been a long time since we've had those kinds of injuries and deaths reported," Miller said.

That same storm system was working its way toward Indiana early Monday. A severe thunderstorm warning was in effect for Van Buren County in Michigan from 1:45 a.m. until 2:45 a.m. EDT.

And a severe thunderstorm watch was in effect until 6 a.m. EDT for Jasper, Benton and Newton counties in Indiana.

The National Weather Service posted a tornado watch until 4 a.m. EDT for areas just west of Chicago, and a severe thunderstorm watch was in effect until 3 a.m. EDT for much of Illinois and parts of southern Indiana.

Flood advisories remained in effect for the Chicago area early Monday.

Storms are expected to move into Michiana during the Memorial Day holiday. An NWS update shortly after 4 a.m. said widespread severe weather was unlikely, but isolated storms with damaging winds were possible.

In Iowa, however, witnesses reported parts of Parkersburg — particularly the town's south side — were reduced to rubble, including most of the town's high school and homes.

A tornado also struck just to the east in the nearby town of Dunkerton and elsewhere in Black Hawk County, where there were reports of homes damaged or destroyed. Dunkerton has fewer than 800 residents and New Hartford has about 700 people.

Iowa Gov. Chet Culver issued a disaster proclamation for Black Hawk, Buchanan and Butler counties, a move that helps coordination between state and local authorities.

Miller said homeland security officials are monitoring reports of storms throughout Iowa. In the Des Moines area, there was heavy rain and lightning Sunday night with wind gusts of 70 mph.

At least 20 people were unaccounted for in Minnesota after a swift storm blew through the St. Paul suburb of Hugo, damaging about four dozen homes, City Administrator Mike Ericson said. Many of the residents could be out of town for the holiday weekend, he said.

A 2-year-old child was killed and the child's sibling was critically injured and taken to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Washington County Sheriff Bill Hutton said. The children's parents also were hospitalized with injuries sustained in the family home.

"It's horrible," Ericson said. "The citizens are very shook and scared." Gov. Tim Pawlenty announced plans to meet with city officials and tour the storm-ravaged city on Monday.

Residents reported a tornado touching down in the area, but that hadn't been confirmed by the National Weather Service. Emergency crews descended on the town to look for those who hadn't been accounted for and to assess the damage.

Roughly 300 to 400 homes were evacuated in the storm-damaged area because of concerns over hazards including downed power lines and leaky gas lines, Ericson said. The city set up a shelter at an elementary school, but American Red Cross spokeswoman Courtney Johnson said all but one of the families was able to find a place to stay with friends or relatives.

Hugo Public Works Director Chris Petree said his family took shelter in the basement before the storm lifted his house off the ground and completely wiped out the second floor.

"I put my daughter down first, my wife on top of her and then I bear-hugged on top of them," Petree said.

As he huddled in his basement against a foundation wall with his wife and 2½-year-old daughter, Petree said they heard the thunderous sound of their house coming off the ground.

"All you hear is glass breaking and wood tearing and breaking in half," Petree said.

In Wisconsin, a tornado watch was issued for most of the state until 2 a.m. Monday. The advisory spanned all but the far northwest and extreme southeast corners of the state.

Softball-sized hail was reported in Wisconsin's St. Croix County, the weather agency said, while residents in Barron and Polk counties were warned that the storm could produce hailstones the size of golf balls and winds of 60 mph.

In Illinois, the weather service issued a tornado warning for Jo Daviess County through Sunday. Tornado watches were issued for counties including LaSalle and DeKalb. Portions of southern and central Illinois were under thunderstorm watches.

The storms followed three days of violent weather across the Midwest. Rural Oklahoma was battered Saturday and storms in Kansas a day earlier killed at least two people there.

About 100 people have died in U.S. twisters so far this year, the worst toll in a decade, according to the weather service, and the danger has not passed yet. Tornado season typically peaks in the spring and early summer, then again in the late fall.

*SBT24/7 News and Associated Press writer Joshua Freed in Hugo, Minn., contributed to this report.*

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Last modified: Sunday, May 25, 2008 1:13 PM EDT

Hunting, fishing, mushrooms and a chapel

EDINBURGH — You get some idea of how big Camp Atterbury was at one time as you drive around the Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA) in the southeast corner of Franklin County.

Meandering around its 6,026 acres is put in perspective when you realize that the original Camp Atterbury sprawled south down into Bartholomew County and covered more than 40,000 acres.

Established in 1942, it was first used as a training site for American troops during World War II. Later, part of Atterbury became a prisoner-of-war camp for Italians and Germans captured during the war. Deactivated in 1948, it was reopened for the Korean War and finally was closed again in 1954.

There it sat until, through a series of land transactions beginning in 1965, the area north of Hospital Road was purchased by the State of Indiana for a fish and wildlife area. The federal Job Corps program also is located there.

The large remaining area south of Hospital Road now houses the Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center, utilized by the National Guard and Army Reserves. It is marked "U.S. Army, No Trespassing," but hunting is authorized on the military base when it doesn't conflict with training operations.

As to the Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA) itself, it's changed from its former military days. Old barracks have been knocked down although some remains still are apparent. Of the 10 man-made impoundments, the largest two are 62-acre Pisgah in the north center of the area and 25-acre Stone Arch to the west. In another addition, the recently opened Atterbury FWA Public Shooting Range features 4 combination trap/skeet fields and 66 rifle/pistol positions.

Wildlife management has developed marshlands and other habitats for game and birds. (The Atterbury bird checklist includes more than 250 varieties of birds that have been identified on the property — some very rarely such as the lark sparrow, but others abundantly such as the Canada goose.)

Hunting and fishing, however, remain popular activities. Hunting and fishing licenses are required and daily hunt permit cards also are necessary. Hunting on the military base now is unlikely since the base was mobilized.

In addition, nearby Driftwood State Fishing Area to the south, according to property literature, is said to be "ideal for bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, and tiger muskellunge."

My visit wasn't for hunting or fishing, but rather to "check out" the area. When I went in the office for a map, I told the man at the desk I was "just looking around." "Oh, thought you were looking for mushrooms; that's what most people are doing," he replied. He said the best places were in the woods and often in the open fields.

My other stop was at a small chapel which I had heard about over the years. Located on the western side of the property, across from Stone Arch Lake, it was built by Italian prisoners of war.

The small, three-sided chapel was constructed in 1943 and featured Christian art work by these prisoners on its interior walls. Over the years, the chapel deteriorated considerably until it was restored in 1988 by the Military Department of Indiana. A glass front and door now protect the chapel. A gravel road over the stone bridge leads back to the chapel and is well marked.

Prisoners also carved the large rock that stands on Hospital Road near the entrance of the camp. It is dated 1942.

Next week: A grave in the middle of the road.

earl conn's Traveling Indiana appears each Sunday in this newspaper. If you have a favorite Hoosier site you would like to see featured, contact him by e-mail at [earlconn1@aol.com](mailto:earlconn1@aol.com) or telephone him at (765) 289-2080.

If You Go

GETTING THERE: South on Interstate 69 and around Indianapolis on Interstate 465 to Interstate 65 south. At S.R. 252 (Flat Rock exit) turn west across U.S. 31 and on into Atterbury on Hospital Road. To reach the chapel, continue on Hospital Road to a gravel road turning right across a small stone bridge (not easily seen).

INFORMATION: Call (812) 526-2051 or the shooting range at (812) 526-6552.

FEES: None to enter property. Mandatory check-in for hunting and fees for shooting range.

UPCOMING EVENTS: An Atterbury Area-wide Open House is planned Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at seven different areas: Department of Natural Resources, Atterbury FWA Public Shooting Range, Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, Indiana Department of Corrections, Atterbury Job Corps, Johnson County Park and Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center.

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## Indiana law requires counties to report on tornado sirens

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — Indiana's emergency management officials are assessing the state's tornado sirens to make sure they're adequate for alerting residents about dangerous weather.

A bill passed last session by the General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Mitch Daniels in March requires each of Indiana's 92 counties to submit a report on siren coverage to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

The report would include all existing and planned sirens in a county, all areas not within range of a siren and recommendations for what counties need by way of more sirens.

Even in the age of weather radios and the Internet, communities are investing in tornado sirens because of their ability to quickly alert thousands of people to dangerous weather.

Maintaining them and buying news ones is costly, but officials say the sirens — and the attention-getting wail they produce — are a crucial part of a larger warning system.

### RESOURCE: [Tornado safety](#)

"They're not the end-all answer, but I personally believe they're a valuable piece of the overall system," said Bernie Beier, director of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Homeland Security.

Beier receives about \$15,000 annually to maintain Allen County's siren network. A new siren costs just less than \$19,000, which makes it difficult for Beier and others in similar positions to accomplish substantial improvements.

He said his most recent task has been retrofitting older-model sirens to test them remotely to see whether they work. Otherwise, emergency management staff members must call people living near the sirens after each monthly test to see whether they heard them.

That makes it a patchy system with a lot of room for human error, Beier said.

"It's an aging system. It would take several million to do what should be done," he said.

Collecting information about tornado sirens in Indiana can be difficult because they can be maintained by counties, cities, towns, neighborhoods or even businesses.

The new law requires not only a report of the location of each siren in a community but also the date of its installation, the manufacturer and model year.

The Department of Homeland Security must adopt rules before 2010 to establish minimum technical standards for the sirens and — if requested by counties — must assist the counties in developing their siren coverage plan.

Sirens aren't meant to penetrate buildings and homes to alert people inside — they're for people working in their yards, playing in parks or otherwise engaged in outdoor activity.

### DID YOU KNOW: [Frequently asked tornado questions](#)

Auburn Fire Department Deputy Chief Michael Good said his northeastern Indiana city maintains 11 tornado sirens. One of those, located at one of the fire department's station, dates to World War II.

Those World War II-era sirens are sturdy and easier to maintain compared with newer models that have more complicated electrical components, he said.

Regardless of their make, Good said the sirens occasionally take lightning strikes, and when newer sirens are hit by lightning, those electrical components must be replaced.

He said the lightning repair on the newer models costs about \$2,000, which doesn't leave much wiggle room for a city like Auburn trying to stay within a budget of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year for tornado siren maintenance.

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[\*\*\*Return to Severe Weather\*\*\*](#)





## State law requires counties to report on sirens

Posted: Tuesday, May 27, 2008 9:47 AM CDT

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FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) - Indiana's emergency management officials are assessing the state's tornado sirens to make sure they're adequate for alerting residents about dangerous weather.

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